

~~CLAIM 1~~

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include a bottle supporting platform for each bottle to be received in the crate; a plurality of substantially U-shaped cut-outs in upper portions of said side and end walls defining columns between said cut-outs, lower portions of said peripheral wall being continuous along said side walls, said lower portions of said peripheral wall and said columns being of single wall construction except for hollow caps at upper ends of said columns that are of double wall construction; each of said columns, except for four corner columns, having a support buttress extending downwardly and inwardly from a lower edge of a respective one of said hollow caps to said crate bottom, and wherein said cut-outs terminate at a ledge that separates said upper portions of said side and end walls from said lower portions of said side and end walls, and further wherein said lower portions of said side and end walls are connected to said crate bottom by a plurality of inwardly directed ribs arranged in groups, respectively, directly below each cut-out, and extending from said each cut-out to said crate bottom.

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12. (Amended) A low depth bottle crate having a peripheral wall of uniform height, said peripheral wall including a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls; a crate bottom connected to said peripheral wall, an upper surface of said crate bottom formed to include a bottle supporting platform for each bottle to be received in the crate; a plurality of substantially U-shaped cut-outs in upper portions of said side and end walls defining columns between said cut-outs, said cut-outs located, respectively, adjacent each bottle supporting platform and terminating at a ledge that separates said upper portions of said side and end walls from lower portions of said side and end walls; lower portions of said

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a<sup>2</sup> peripheral wall being continuous along said side walls, and wherein handle cut-outs are provided in lower portions of said end walls, defining handle bars that extend between adjacent columns in said end walls directly above said handle cut-outs, each handle bar connected directly to the crate bottom at a mid-point of said handle bar by a strut extending from said handle bar to a raised pedestal on said crate bottom.

17. (Amended) A low depth bottle crate having a peripheral wall of uniform height, said peripheral wall including a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls; a crate bottom connected to said peripheral wall, an upper surface of said crate bottom formed to include a bottle supporting platform for each bottle to be received in the crate; a plurality of substantially U-shaped cut-outs in upper portions of said side and end walls defining columns between said cut-outs, lower portions of said peripheral wall being continuous along said side walls, said lower portions of said peripheral wall and said columns being of single wall construction except for hollow caps at upper ends of said columns that are of double wall construction; and wherein handle cut-outs are provided in lower portions of said end walls, and handle bars extend between adjacent columns in said end walls directly above said handle cut-outs, each handle bar connected directly to the crate bottom; said crate bottom having a lower surface formed with an array of recesses adapted to engage bottle caps of bottles carried in an underlying similar crate, said recesses in each of four quadrants being individually different but substantial mirror images of recesses in adjacent quadrants in respective longitudinal and transverse directions.

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a 18. (Amended) The low depth crate of claim 17 wherein said lower portions of said peripheral wall are connected to said crate bottom by a plurality of substantially L-shaped ribs located directly beneath respective ones of said cut-outs.

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